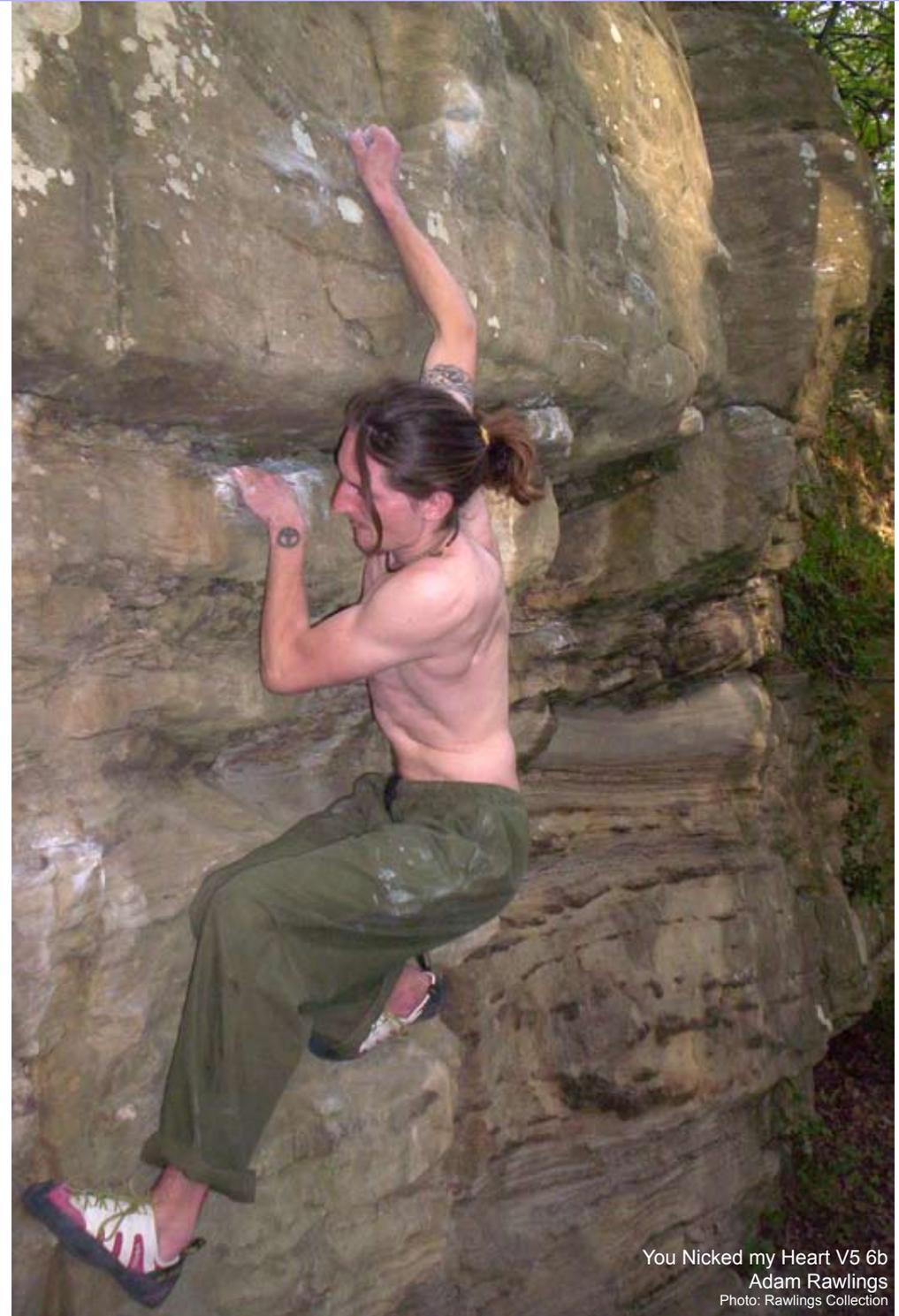
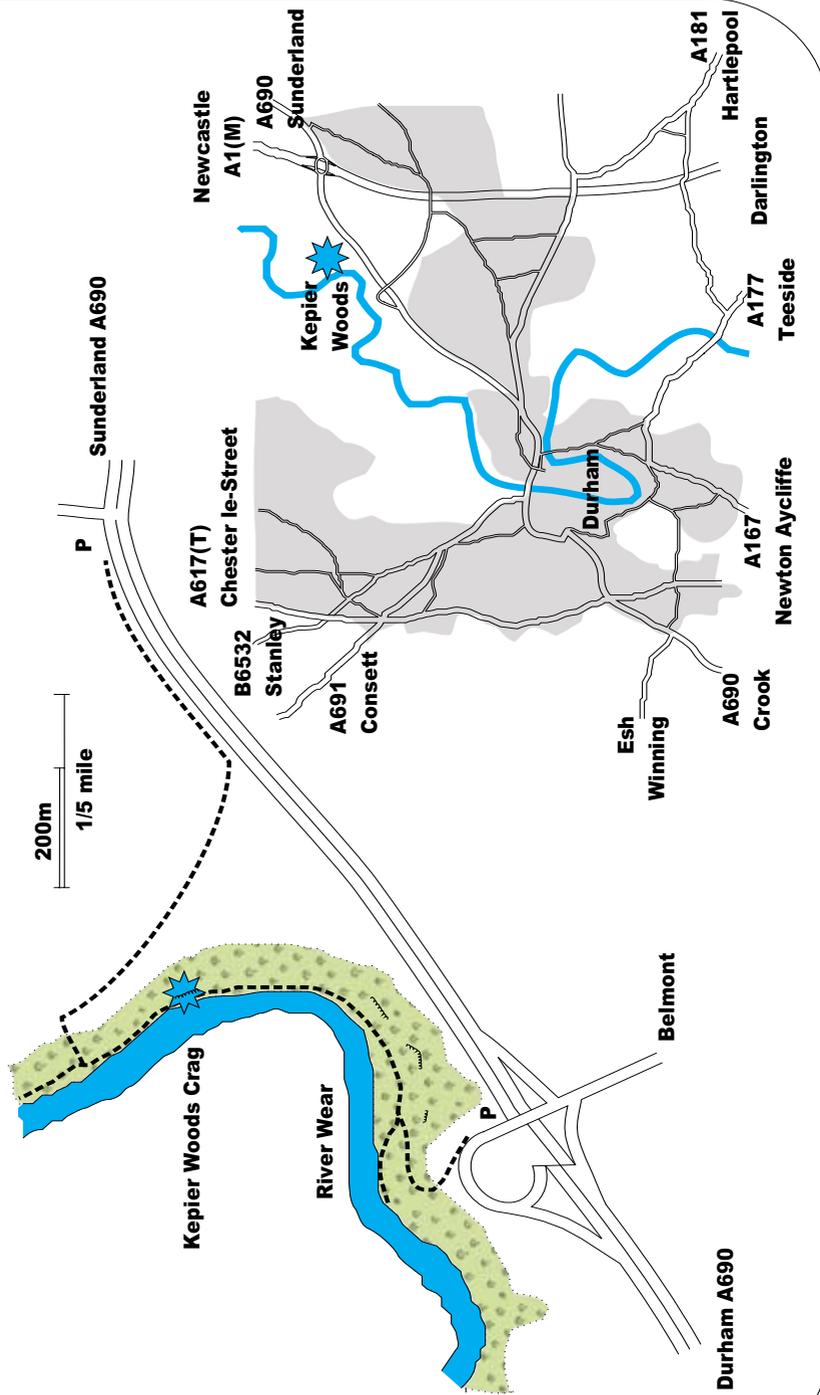


KEPIER WOODS



You Nicked my Heart V5 6b
 Adam Rawlings
 Photo: Rawlings Collection

KEPIER WOODS

O.S. Sheet NZ 288438
 Aspect West Facing
 Altitude Altitude 30m
 Approach Time 5-10minutes

Situation and Character

A very small but pleasant sandstone buttress, situated in an idyllic location beside the River Wear. Despite its sheltered position this buttress is sometimes greasy during the winter, when the rock can also be dirty, however only the harder problems tend to suffer from this. During the rest of the year Kepier Wall will often be dry even after periods of light rain. Prolonged heavy rain can cause drainage but this usually only takes a day to clear, however if it has rained a boot wipe (bar towel!) and a mat are essential as the path beneath the crag can become very muddy.

History

"Kepier was my local crag back in the mid to late 1980's. I made some exploratory routes on the larger quarried crags that you pass on the approach to Kepier Crag. The first quarry has some crack lines that have old wooden wedges in them from goodness knows when. I put up a route which goes up to and over a triangular overhang/roof. However this needed extensive brushing at the top due to dirt and had some dubious holds. The second smaller quarry has a cracked wall with a 2/3 routes HS to VS. Next is the semi circular basin which is made from shale, good in hard winter, but we don't get those nowadays. Just before Kepier Crag is the larger wall with a cave. I cleaned some routes on here but found the rock quickly became dirty and the holds were snappy. On the whole, Kepier crag is small but generally clean and solid. The other rock is more friable, but don't let that put you off!" Mark Turner

Access and Approaches*From Durham;*

Follow the A690 north and take the Belmont slip road. Just before the bridge turn left into the car park. Follow the tarmac footpath into the woods and down a bank. Where it forks continue over a small bridge and alongside the river, passing old loose quarries (and a few poor routes), on your right. After 5 minutes Kepier Wall will be reached.

From A1M Motorway;

From the A1M take the A690 Durham turn off and head south towards Durham. Take the Belmont slip road and turn right at the top, cross the bridge and turn right, immediately, into the car park. Follow the tarmac footpath as above.

Kepier Wall

The climbs are described from left to right. The short wall to the left contains a couple of interesting problems...

1. Dids 5m VD

Follow the thin finger crack.

2. The Undercuts 5m VB 4c**The Main Wall****3. Crucial Knee Jam 5m V2 5b**

Start at the left arête of the main crag. Facing right undercut the V-notch and knee jam to reach for a sloping mantelshelf.

4. Hard Labour 5m VB 4c

Start right of the V-notch beneath the flake. Use the rounded break to gain the flake and climb it to the top. (It is possible to dyno from the bottom hold of the V-notch directly to the bottom of the flake at 5b).

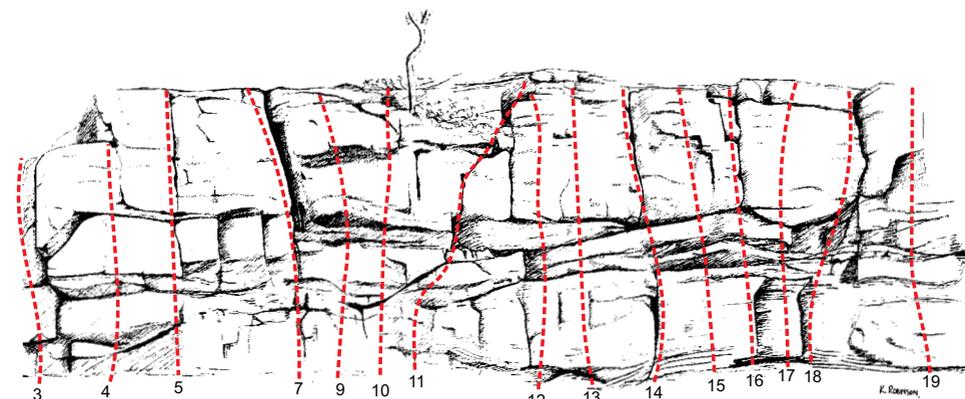
5. Work Shy 5m VB 4c/5a

Follow the obvious thin crack line right of *Hard Labour*.

6. Independence 5m V0 5a

Wall right of *Workshy* using independent holds.

The side pull/flake of *Workshy* can be gained from the start of *Independence* at 4c.

**Kepier Woods****7. Sidewinder 5m V2 5c**

The arête to the right, just left of *Ferret*, is climbed using a side pull and sloping crimp to better holds.

8. Ferret 5m S

Runs up the widest crack on Kepier Wall.

9. Double Overhangs 5m V2 5b/5c

Mantle over both overhangs, using a pocket beneath the second. (Straight to the pocket is 6a).

10. Bobbery John 5m VD

Starting just right of the wide crack of *Ferret*, up into the short corner and then finish on better holds just to the left of the small beech tree.

11. Fitchen 5m VD

Follow the dogleg crack using rounded footholds.

12. The Ghost of Mr Angry 5m V0 5a

An eliminate problem using the oval pocket to gain an incut ledge, "Pint Pot Ledge".

13. Hob Hole 5m VD

Start just right of *The Ghost of Mr Angry*, right of the oval pocket and climb the wall directly to the finish of *Fitchen*.

14. Tea-break Crack 5m VD

Takes the thin crack just to the right.

15. Thatcherism 5m V3 6a

The wall just left of *Maggie the Whip* using undercuts and crimps.

16. Maggie The Whip 5m V1 5b

Start up the undercut then climb the awkward crack, a wobbly hand jam may or may not help!

16a. You Nick'ed my Heart 5m V5 6b

Good clean line on poor crimps very wide bridge just left of *Major*.

Adam Rawlings 29.4.07

17. Major 5m V3 6a

Between *Maggie the Whip* and the *Shorts Crack*. Climb the wall.

18. Shorts Crack 5m V0 5a

Follow the obvious crack at the right-hand end of Kepier Wall.

19. The Overhanging Nose 5m V5 6b

The steepest problem at Kepier Woods.

The most popular method of training of Kepier Wall is to link as many of the problems mentioned above without ever stepping off the wall by climbing up one route and down the next and traversing between. Obviously many variations are possible. Once you think you know your way around the wall try this one, for one extra tick...

20. The Jazz Butcher Variation 45m V4 5c

Traverse the undercuts left, dyno for the flake of *Hard Labour*. Reverse *Workshy*. Traverse into *Double Mantelshelf* but only climb the first overlap. Traverse the break right, all the way right to *Shorts Crack*. Down this and swing round the nose, climb down and traverse left along the bottom break to *Workshy*. Up this and down and down *Hard Labour*. That's just the first circuit, keep going ascending in turn all the routes from *Hard Labour* to *Sidewinder* or until you get pumped or fall off.

Many of climbs have been recorded on the often dirty walls near here some details can be found at www.climbonline.co.uk.